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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1856.

THOMAS ROMNEY ROBINSON, D. D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

ON the recommendation of the Council, it was

RESOLVED,—That the additional annual Grant of £200 given by Parliament be devoted—£100 per annum to the purchase of Books for the Library; and £100 per annum for the purchase of Antiquities for the Museum.

It was also—

RESOLVED,—That it is the opinion of the Academy, that in case the sums appropriated to these several purposes be not expended within one year, the balance should be carried over to the credit of the Library and Museum respectively.

Mr. Huband Smith read a paper on the history of the Castle and Manor of Baggotrath, and exhibited a drawing from a sketch made by Gabriel Beranger, about the year 1760; also a curious plan of the array of the Parliamentary forces of the garrison of Dublin, as drawn out before the battle which took place in 1649, in which the royal army, under the command of the Marquis of Ormonde, sustained a remarkable defeat, the disastrous effects of which ended in the total ruin of the royal cause in Ireland. This curious plan, which is without name or date, is preserved in a valuable collection of ancient maps and drawings, in the MS. room of the Library of Trinity College, and is noticed, among others, in a paper read before the Academy by the late James Hardiman, in 1824. From this plan it would appear that a sort of entrenchment extended round a considerable extent of land, comprehending within its limits St. Stephen's-green, and probably Merrion-square, Fitzwilliam-square, and the site of the adjoining streets.

The names written on the roads or ways, at the extreme points of this plan, are as follows :—“ Colledge green waye, St. Stevan’s street waye, St. Kevan’s street waye, Dunnabroke waye, and Baggotrough waye.”

He also exhibited an enlarged copy of a portion of Rocque’s map, or “ Survey of the City and Suburbs of Dublin,” published in 1757, on which is laid down the line of road from Stephen’s-green to Ball’s-bridge, over the river Dodder, now Lower and Upper Baggot-street; on the north side of which is shown on this map the site of Baggotrath Castle.

The original structure was originally built some time in the twelfth century, as appears from various notices of it in the public records; and Mr. Smith read several extracts from the Memoranda Rolls of the Court of Exchequer and Patent and Close Rolls, illustrative of the history of its possessors, at different subsequent periods. The latest structure, the ruins of which were standing within the memory of many persons now living, was a massive square tower, built, as there can be little doubt, from the drawings exhibited, about the time of James the First or Elizabeth. It was taken down upon the occasion of the building of the houses along the north side of Upper Baggot-street, and a house, which is higher by one story than the adjoining ones, marks the exact position which the Castle of Baggotrath occupied.

The following are a few of the most curious extracts read by Mr. Smith :—

In the Charter Book, sometimes called the “ Domesday Book,” of the Corporation of Dublin, are preserved two curious charters, the first from John de la Warre, Mayor of the city of Dublin, to Maurice Fitzgerald, in which the boundaries of the manor of Rath are fully set out. From the second, it appears that the manor of the Rath, with its appurtenances as therein described, was held by Philip de Hynteberg, and afterwards by his grandson Nicholas, who sold it to Lord Robert

Baggot, as fully as he or his grandfather held it, reserving, however, a yearly chief rent of 20 marks thereout to the citizens of Dublin.

In the year 1320, the same Robert Baggot, being sued for the aforesaid Rath, pleaded his title under the Corporation, stating that he held same of the Mayor and citizens of Dublin, and that it was within the bounds of the city.

In the year 1322, the lands of Donnybrook, which belonged to the Manor of Baggotrath, were conveyed, by the above named Robert Baggot, to Fromund le Bruyn, who reconveyed them to Thomas, the son of the same Robert Baggot.

A.D. 1442. James Cornewalsh, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, came from his residence, at Dunboyne, on the 28th of September, 1442, for the purpose of taking his seat in that Court, or, as the record informs us, "*Causa sedendi in scaccario domini Regis, ibidemque Deo favente justiciam faciendum in crastino sancti Michaelis tunc proximo sequente;*" and that he came to his Manor of Baggotrath, situate within the liberty of the city of Dublin, where, as the same record states, "*more solito sub quiete et pacis domini Regis supradicti tranquillitatem una cum suis tantum domesticis dicto vicesimo octavo die residebat.*" While he was there, however, William Fitz William, of Dundrum, Esquire, "*cum magna multitudine hominum armatorum modo guerrino,*" entered the hall of the Manor in Baggotrath, "*cum gladiis, arcubus, lanceis, et fustibus,*" and there, "*proditorie et felonice,*" and against the king's peace, "*ut vulgariter et notorie dicitur,*" he most wickedly slew him. [Memoranda Roll of the Exchequer, anno 21 Hen. VI.]

A.D. 1480. The Corporation of Dublin presented a petition to a Parliament held before Gerald Earl of Kildare, the deputy of Richard Duke of York, stating that, by the death of Richard Fitz William, "*franque home et demeurant deins la franchise del dit citie, le quele fuist seizie del seigneurie de*

Bagotrath," his son and heir, being a minor, and that the king had claimed the wardship of Baggotrath, which was within the franchises, and held of the Corporation by the service of 20 marks yearly, whereby they would be deprived of their distress for the said sum, and they pray a remedy; which is granted them, upon the condition that they shall take but £10 during the nonage of the heir, and apply the remaining five marks upon the repair, "del chiefe lieu."

By an inquisition taken at Dublin Castle, anno 20 Hen. VIII., A. D. 1529, it was found that Ellinor Dowdall, the widow of Thomas Fitz William, of Baggotrath, Esquire, deceased, was seized of one-third of his estates. It also finds that his son and heir, Richard Fitz William, made his will, which is set forth, *in hæc verba*, upon the record, and bears date the 12th day of July, anno 15 Hen. VIII., whereby he directs "his body to be burit at the Whit frirs of Dublin," to whom he bequeaths "a gown of sattyng, and a dowblett of [], to make them westments." He leaves "to the church of Myrryon a gown of chamlett and a doublett of sattine to make westments." He leaves his "ffynest blak hose to Morish, my gostly father." He adds, "Item, I will that my wiff shall sitt and dwell in the place of Bagotrath as long as hit shall pleas her [] as my heyr be able to entyr in hit." The Inquisition further finds that Richard died on the 30th of August, 20 Hen. VIII., leaving Thomas Fitz William, his son and heir, aged seven years, and unmarried, and that Baggotrath was held by the Mayor and bailiffs of Dublin, by the service of 20 marks yearly rent. [Exchequer Inquisition.]

The last remarkable event in connexion with the history of this Castle was the attempt made by the great Duke of Ormonde, when in command of the Royal army of Charles the First, to fortify Baggotrath Castle, which resulted in the battle of Rathmines, fought on the 2nd of August, 1649,

the details of which are given in the memoirs of Edmund Ludlow, who held a high command in the Republican army, and also, at still greater length, by Carte, in his *Memoirs of the Duke of Ormonde*.

In Richard Burton's account of "The Battles, Sieges, and other considerable Transactions, both Civil and Military, during the late War in Ireland, till the entire reduction of that Country," written in the time of William the Third, the attempt of the Duke of Ormonde to take Dublin from the garrison of the Commonwealth, in which he so signally failed, is more briefly narrated.

Having "made agreement with the Lord Inchiquin and his forces, and likewise with those of the Marquis of Clanricard, and the Earl of CASTLEHAVEN," who were "all joined under his command," he came before Dublin with all his army, and obliged Colonel Jones, the Governor, who had drawn out some of the garrison to interrupt them, to retire into the city, which was indifferently fortified, and plentifully manned both with horse and foot. The Duke of Ormonde, wanting money and provisions, and his troops, which were composed partly of English as well as of Irish soldiers, murmuring against each other, he was almost resolved to have marched away, but changed his intention on learning that Drogheda was surrendered, together with Dundalk, the garrison compelling Colonel Monk to deliver it, and the soldiers having taken up arms for the King. The garrison of Trim also was soon after taken from the Parliament; after which the Lord Inchiquin brought up his forces, now much increased, to assist the Duke of Ormonde at the siege of Dublin. His design was to shut up the garrison, then commanded by Colonel Michael Jones, within their works, and hinder the cavalry, which formed a large proportion of the Republican forces, from getting forage, or grazing for cattle without the line which was drawn round the town.

Carte, after relating the taking of the Castle of Rathfarnham by storm by the Royal troops,—the assailants showing so much mercy, that, though 500 common men got in before any officer of note entered the place, not one of the besieged was put to the sword,—proceeds to state, that the troops of the Parliament having no place to graze in but the pasturage on the south side, near the walls—there being no grass within the town, and no means of grazing on the north side, by reason of the army under Lord Dillon, there posted,—it was proposed to possess and fortify the Castle of Baggotrath, very near adjoining that meadow; which, if effected, would have deprived them of the only pasture they had, and would have starved all their horse in five days. Orders were thereupon given to Major-General Purcell to summon thither, in the night, 1500 foot, with materials to fortify it; who accordingly began, as soon as it was dark, to march with that party; but met with so ill guides, that though it was within half a mile of the leaguer, he did not get thither a full hour before day.

Ludlow's narrative informs us, that Baggotrath had a rampart of earth about it, and that the Royal troops had wrought upon this to augment its strength a whole night before they were discovered. But the next morning, Colonel Jones perceiving their design, concluded it absolutely necessary to endeavour to remove them from thence before their works were finished. To that end he drew all his forces, both foot and horse, to the works that faced the enemy, and, leaving as many as he thought necessary for the defence of the town, he sallied out with the rest, being between four and five thousand, and, falling upon them, beat them from their works, killing Sir William Vaughan, who commanded them, and most of the men that were with him, and closely pursuing the rest, who fled towards the main army, which was stationed near Rathmines. In this engagement, Burton relates, that of the Royal army 4000 men were killed, and 2517 made prisoners, having among them many

persons of quality, and all their cannon were taken, and a rich camp to reward the soldiers. The chief resistance offered appears to have been from a party of Lord Inchiquin's horse, that had formerly served the Parliament, who defended a pass for some time, but were, after some dispute, broken, and forced to fly. Having routed these, Colonel Jones marched with all diligence up to the walls of Rathmines, which contained about ten acres of ground, where many of the enemy's foot had shut up themselves; but perceiving their army to be entirely routed, and their general fled, they yielded themselves prisoners. The result of this engagement seems to have been wholly unexpected on both sides, the troops of the Parliament having been led, step by step, to an absolute victory, whereas their utmost design, at the beginning of the action, was only to beat the enemy from Baggotrath, and was so surprising to the Royal forces, that they had not time to carry off their money, which lay at Rathfarnham, for the paying of their army, where Colonel Jones seized £4000, very seasonably for the payment of his troops.

This signal defeat of the Royalist army, which was so disastrous in its results, appears to have been the last remarkable historical event with which the Castle of Baggotrath was connected. It was never afterwards repaired, but suffered gradually to moulder into ruin. The office of Governor of this Castle is stated to have been, although a mere sinecure, filled up from time to time, and a salary paid, down to the period of the Union, when, with other appointments of a similar nature, it was abolished, compensation having been made to the last Governor, Sir John De Blaquiere.

Mr. Smith, in conclusion, intimated his intention of following up the investigation of historical events relating to the Castles of Rathmines, Rathgar, and Rathfarnham, whose names alone afford evidence of the antiquity of the sites on which they are built, and with regard to which many most

interesting particulars remain on record, which have never yet been collected together.

Mr. O'Flanagan made some remarks on Mr. Smith's paper.

Dr. Petrie stated that he recollected the Castle and the demolition of the Rath, in which some stone celts were found, which are now in his museum.

John Neville, Esq., C.E., read a paper on a new experimental Hydraulic Formula for finding the velocity of water in water-channels.

Sir W. R. Hamilton, LL. D., read a paper on a geometrical extension of the Calculus of Quaternions, as concerns its fundamental interpretations.

A fac-simile of the box of St. Molash, made by the electro-type process, was presented by James West, Esq., M.R.I.A.

Portion of a wooden spindle, and a bone and bronze pin, found at Confree Lake, near Strokestown, were presented by Rev. Porter Browne, of Ahascragh.

The Secretary exhibited, by permission of Sir Erasmus Borrowes, Bart., a stone stamp, found in the Crimea, containing impressions of religious monograms.